tive Master Plans for the purpose. The State Governments have also taken steps to draw Metropolitan Regional Plans for healtthy development of metropolitan cities.

Financial assistance is being provided to various State Governments under the schemes of Urban Basic Services; Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums and World Bank assisted Urban Development Projects. In addition the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns is also in operation which will help check the influx of population into these major urban centres by making increased investment on infrastructure and other essential facilities in small and medium towns.

Steps to Meet Shortage of Pig Iron

340. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of pig iron in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) During the current year against an estimated demand of 16.75 lakh tonnes indigenous availability of pig iron has been estimated at 13.5 lakh tonnes.

(c) The level of supplies is being improved by increasing production in the coming months and by the import of about 2 lakh tonnes of pig iron.

Setting up of New Food Processing Industrial Units

341. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to encourage setting up of new food processing industrial units;

(b) whether Government are considering single window clearance for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government are keen to accord clearance for establishing food processing units under a single window concept and the State Governments are being suitably advised in this regard.

Statement

The facilities announced to the food processing industries are as follows:

(i) Food Processing Industries including packaging and preservation will be placed in Appendix-I.

(ii) Broad banding of industries will be permitted.

(iii) Food Processing Industries will be treated as high priority sector for the purposes of bank finance.

(iv) The processing industry will be able to get raw material by forming cooperatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials. They necessarily will have to provide extension service, seels, fertilizers etc., so that they are assured of proper supply of raw materials They may also obtain some land for demonstration purposes subject however, to the existing Land Ceiling Laws in the country.

(v) It may be feasible to organise cooperatives of producers providing them all the inputs and undertaking to buy back the entire quantities so produced at the price which is fixed very much in advance. While forming such cooperatives, foreign collaborators will be allowed to utilise them for the purpose of provision of raw materials and eventual 100 per cent export.

(vi) Necessary fiscal incentives will be provided to food processing industries after consulting the various Ministries/Departments concerned.

(vii) Investment in Cold storages will be encouraged for preserving raw materials and finished products. Duty structures and other levies which are not helpful to this industry will be re-structured after due discussions with the concerned Ministries. While encouraging new cold storages, the needs of small farmers will be carefully considered and provided for.

(viii) To form overall policy framework in respect of fishing industry in the country, a National Fisheries Development Board will be formed.

(ix) To enable processed food exports to enjoy concessional freight structure, on Open Sky Policy will be followed by which foreign freight carriers as well as Indian carriers will be encouraged to touch Indian ports in one of their circular routes.

(x) Permission to import state-of-the-art technology, both of the capital equipments and process technology will be granted.

(xi) The Indian Agro Food Industry will be given incentives to encourage joint ventures abroad. It may export our semi-processed food, process them further and market in those countries.

(xii) An avenue will be found for the export for out semi-processed food, by permitting foreign companies having a good brand image in the neighbouring countries, market our processed foods under their brand name.

(xiii) In deep sea fishing, joint ventures will be permitted with establishing foreign companies.

(xiv) The quality control laboratories will be upgraded by providing modern instruments for analysis and the skills of the staff who man such laboratories will be upgraded.

Import of Fertilisers

342. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to import Fertilisers from the foreign countries in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating names of the countries from where Government propose to import fertilisers, names of the Ccmpanies who will store the said Fertilisers and what will be the procedure of its sale to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Imports of fertilisers will be made to bridge the gap between the anticipated supply and demand.

(b) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited which is the canalising agency for importing fertilisers decides on the countries from which the fertilisers are to be imported, at the time of import, taking into account the relevant factors like the price, availability of bilateral aid from that country, rupee payment agreement etc.

Imported fertilisers are handled by fertiliser manufacturers and Indian